

REMARKS

1. Interview: Applicants thank the Examiner and his supervisor for their courtesy in discussing this Application in a telephone interview on August 5, 2005. The claims, as amended, were discussed, and agreement was reached.

2. Amendments: The Specification has been amended in paragraphs [1] and [8]-[10] to overcome the Examiner's objection.

With the amendments, claims 1-7 and 9-17 are pending in the application. The following changes modify the claims to reflect the allowable subject matter, as agreed in the interview. Claims 1, 9, 10, and 13 are the independent claims. Claim 1 corresponds to claim 10. Claims 1-7 and 10-12 are allowed. New claims 14-17 are added, are dependent from claim 10, and correspond to claims 4-7.

Claim 8 corresponded to claim 13, with claim 9 dependent from claim 8. Claims 8 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Colligan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,415,031). Claim 9 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was otherwise allowable. Claim 9 is rewritten in independent form to overcome this objection. Claim 13 has also been amended to include the limitations from claim 9, again rewritten in independent form. Claim 8 is canceled.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Appl. No. 09/898,172
Amdt. dated August 5, 2005
Reply to Office Action of July 13, 2005

PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael L. Drapkin
Reg. No. 55,127

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 303-571-4000
Fax: 415-576-0300
MLD:klb
60547807 v1